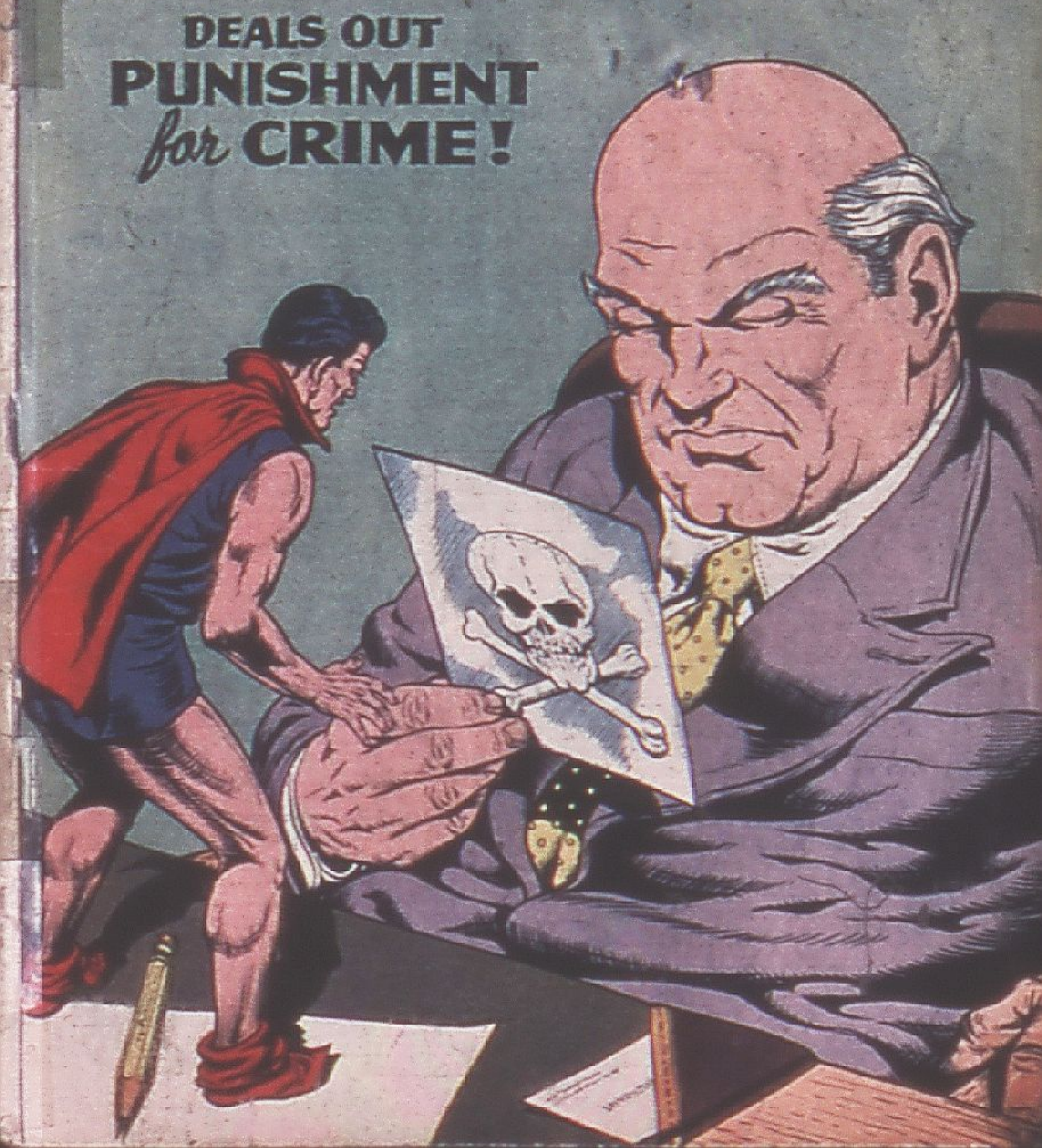
DOLL MAN

JULY No.17

10¢

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THE DOLL MAN



They called him SILVER DOLLAR, and that was the token that symbolized his life of crime! Men heard the jingling of his dread coins and died violent deaths! Yes, it seemed that here was a good-luck charm that would always protect SILVER DOLLAR from harm! Until The DOLL MAN, mighty mite of crime-busting, cashed in SILVER DOLLARS luck and proved that justice cant be short-changed!

A familiar scene is enacted at the state prison....

YOU'RE FREE NOW! HERE'S TEN DOLLARS TO HELP YOU GET A FRESH START! TAKE MY ADVICE, GO STRAIGHT!

THANKS FOR THE ADVICE, WARDEN!

-- BUT I DON'T NEED YOUR TEN SPOT! I'VE GOT MY SILVER DOLLAR TO KEEP ME COMPANY! JUST ONE SOLITARY SILVER DOLLAR! I'LL RUN IT UP INTO A MILLION --- MARK MY WORDS!

SO LONG, WARDEN! I WON'T BE SEEING YOU!

I WISH I WERE SURE OF THAT!

I MADE A SUCKER PLAY ONCE! AND I PAID FOR IT--- WITH TEN YEARS! NOBODY'LL EVER CATCH SILVER DOLLAR OFF BASE AGAIN!

Later...

HELLO, BOYS! IT'S ME --- SILVER DOLLAR! I'M BACK!

WE FORGOT TO HANG OUT THE FLAGS! ISN'T THAT TOO BAD?

NONE OF YOUR SMART TALK! MAYBE YOU FORGOT WHO'S BOSS AROUND HERE!

M-MAYBE I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE! GRINGO'S WAITIN' TO SEE YA IN THE BACK ROOM!

HELLO, GRINGO! I HEAR YOU'VE TAKEN OVER FOR ME WHILE I'VE BEEN GONE!

THINGS HAVE CHANGED, SILVER DOLLAR! I'VE TAKEN OVER--- PERMANENTLY!

YOU'RE WASHED UP! FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE, I'LL GET YOU A PENNY-ANTE JOB IN THE RACKETS! BUT YOU'LL BE WORKING FOR ME!

I NEVER DID TRUST YOU, GRINGO! EVER SEE ME SHOOT HOLES IN A SILVER DOLLAR?

I TOSS IT UP IN THE AIR LIKE THAT! THEN I REACH FOR MY GUN!

I NEVER MISS, GRINGO!.. EXCEPT ON PURPOSE!

AGH!

SLAM

CINC!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

HE GUNNED GRINGO!

I'M CHIPPING IN FOR HIS FUNERAL--- ONE SILVER DOLLAR! AND I'LL DO THE SAME FOR THE NEXT GUY WHO THINKS I'M NOT THE BOSS! GET ME?

Silver Dollar came back, and he rode a bloody trail of crime to the tune of blasting guns and jingling silver dollars---

Until one day--

THIS GUY'S HAD HIS LAST WARNING! SOMEBODY'S GOING TO START COLLECTING ON HIS LIFE INSURANCE!

HAS HE BEEN WRITING ABOUT YOU IN THAT NEWS-PAPER AGAIN?

HE'S WRITING HIS OWN DEATH NOTICE! TRYING TO STIR UP TROUBLE, THAT'S WHAT HE'S DOING! WELL, HE'LL GET A BELLY-FUL -- OF LEAD!

IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANT IT, THAT'S THE WAY IT'LL BE!

Meanwhile, in the offices of the Daily Bulletin...

I'VE BEEN READING YOUR LATEST EDITORIAL, VINCE! YOU DON'T PULL ANY PUNCHES!

I CAN'T PLAY PATTY-CAKE WITH MEN LIKE SILVER DOLLAR! THE PUBLIC HAS TO BE AROUSED TO THE DANGER!

ARE YOU AROUSED TO YOUR OWN DANGER? SILVER DOLLAR HAS GIVEN YOU ENOUGH WARNINGS TO LAY OFF....

HE'S BLUFFING! HE WOULDN'T DARE TRY ANYTHING!

I'M NOT SO SURE! VINCE NEEDS PROTECTION! HE WON'T LET THE POLICE DO IT, BUT MAYBE I CAN PERSUADE THE DOLL MAN...

Later, in Darrel Dane's apartment...

SO YOU THINK SILVER DOLLAR IS REALLY IN EARNEST, EH, MARTHA? I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF YOU WERE RIGHT!

Moments later, Darrel Dane compresses the molecules of his body to become the dynamic DOLL MAN!

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR A CHANCE TO TANGLE WITH SILVER DOLLAR! THIS MAY BE IT!

FROM NOW ON THE BULLETIN'S EDITORIAL WRITER IS GOING TO HAVE A PERSONAL BODY-GUARD! AND HE WON'T EVEN KNOW IT!

For the next several days, wherever a certain person traveled, the DOLL MAN was no further away than--- than, well, his satchel, for example---

THIS IS MORE COMFORTABLE THAN THE UMBRELLA HE CARRIED ME AROUND IN YESTERDAY!

HERE HE COMES NOW!

START ROLLING!

SAY YOUR PRAYERS! THIS IS IT!

OH-OH!

DOWN!

RAT-TAT-TAT!

THEY MISSED! I'D BETTER NOT GIVE THEM A SECOND CHANCE!

WH--WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?

NOW YOU'RE REALLY THE BOY BEHIND THE GUN!

OWWW!

IT'S THE DOLL MAN! GET OUT OF HERE! UGHHH!

YOU CAN'T LEAVE WITHOUT SOMETHING TO REMEMBER ME BY!

BULLETPROOF GLASS, DOLL MAN! I'LL SHUT YOU OUT!

WHA--?

HE CAUGHT ME OFF BALANCE!

A broken rusty coil of bedspring saves The Doll Man from serious injury....

SOMETIMES I'M GRATEFUL FOR BEING SMALL! ANYTHING IS LIKELY TO TAKE THE PLACE OF A LIFE NET!

I SAVED VINCE'S LIFE, BUT HIS WOULD-BE KILLER'S GOT AWAY! I RECOGNIZED SLICK NICK! HE'S ONE OF SILVER DOLLAR'S HIRED TORPEDOES!

SPEED LIMIT 40

Later, Darrel Dane visits the District Attorney's office...

ARE YOU CERTAIN THAT YOU CAN IDENTIFY SLICK NICK AS ONE OF THE MEN?

I'M POSITIVE!

THAT'S ALL I NEED TO SLAP AN ARREST ON HIM! I HOPE YOUR IDENTIFICATION STANDS UP IN COURT, MR. DANE!

IT WILL! SILVER DOLLAR CAN'T FRIGHTEN ME!

Soon...

HEY, BOSS! THE COPS JUST PICKED UP SLICK NICK!

I KNOW ALL ABOUT IT!

SOME GUY NAMED DARREL DANE SAYS HE CAN IDENTIFY SLICK NICK! AS FAR AS I CAN FIND OUT, HE'S THE ONLY WITNESS THE COPS HAVE!

I GET IT! DANE'S SLATED FOR A TABLE IN THE MORGUE!

The next night, as Darrel Dane and Martha Roberts are leaving a movie theatre....

TAXI!

OKAY, MISTER!

GET RIGHT IN!

SAY, WHA... GOING!

UHHHH!

Later, at Dane's flat....

YOUR BOY FRIEND WON'T TALK TO THE COPS ANY MORE!

IT'S MURDER! YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH IT!

FLASH!

WON'T I?

I HATE TO THINK OF HIM ALONE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER! HERE'S A SILVER DOLLAR TO KEEP HIM COMPANY!

HA-HA! YOU'RE A SCREAM, BOSS! WHAT'LL WE DO WITH THE DAME?

I'VE GOT IT ALL ARRANGED! SHE'LL MEET WITH AN ACCIDENT!

Meanwhile, the shock of cold water revives Darrel Dane ---

WH--WHERE AM I? WHAT'S HAPPENED?

HOW I REMEMBER! SILVER DOLLAR IS RUTHLESS--- AND HE STRIKES FAST! I CAN'T GET FREE---

By an instant effort of will, Darrel Dane again becomes the dynamic DOLL MAN!

BUT THIS SLAB OF CONCRETE WASN'T BUILT TO MY SIZE!

SILVER DOLLAR IS GOING TO GET AN UNWELCOME SURPRISE!

TOO LATE! THERE HE GOES! AND HE'S GOT MARTHA!

THE DOLL MAN!

SAY, THAT ROLLER SKATE IS JUST WHAT I NEED! CAN I BORROW IT?

WH--WHY, SURE! BOY, THE FELLERS WILL NEVER BELIEVE THAT I REALLY SAW THE DOLL MAN!

I'LL BRING IT BACK! SO LONG!

WHEEE! JUST LIKE A SCOOTER! ONLY THIS IS EASIER TO HANDLE IN TRAFFIC!

AND I DON'T HAVE TO STOP FOR TRAFFIC LIGHTS, EITHER! I THINK I SEE SILVER DOLLAR'S CAB AHEAD!

SOON...

THEY STOPPED HERE! I SAW THEM TAKE MARTHA INTO THE BUILDING!

THE ELEVATOR INDICATOR'S STOPPED AT THE SEVENTH FLOOR!

BUT I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE ELEVATOR! I'M IN A HURRY!

Meanwhile...

YOU KILLED DARREL DANE! I-I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO ME NOW!

I REGRET THAT YOU MUST DIE! BUT IT WAS SILLY OF YOUR BOY FRIEND TO OPPOSE ME... AND UNFORTUNATE THAT YOU SAW WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM!

SOONER OR LATER, I ALWAYS WIN! I'VE GOT THE MONEY AND I'VE GOT THE POWER! THAT'S AN UNBEATABLE COMBINATION, FOR THE MAN WHO KNOWS HOW TO USE BOTH!

AND NOW FOR YOUR LITTLE ACCIDENT—A FALL FROM THE SEVENTH FLOOR WINDOW!

NO!

YOU HEARD WHAT THE LADY SAID!

THE DOLL MAN!

SHE SAID NO!

UHH!

I'LL THROW A SLUG INTO THAT LITTLE RUNT!

NO YOU DON'T!

OWW!

THANKS FOR THE ASSIST, MARTHA!

CRUNCH!

I'M LEAVING! BUT HERE'S SOMETHING FOR YOU!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD! WHEN I SAW THEM THROW YOU INTO THAT RIVER---I---

WELL, I'M HERE AND I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO ANOTHER MEETING WITH SILVER DOLLAR! I WANT TO RETRIEVE HIS GOOD-LUCK PIECE!

KLUNK!

OHHH!

Seconds later...

SILVER DOLLAR ESCAPED! BUT HIS HENCHMAN IS STILL UNCONSCIOUS--

THAT SILVER DOLLAR HELPED HIM ESCAPE AGAIN! BUT I THINK HIS LUCK IS RUNNING OUT! THIS MAKES TWO FAILURES CHALKED AGAINST HIS SCORE!

That night, on a deserted street--

MY TWO BEST LIEUTENANTS CAPTURED! THE COPS ON MY TRAIL! AND EVERY NEWSPAPER IN TOWN IS YELLING FOR MY SCALP!

I'VE HIT A RUN OF BAD LUCK! IN THE MORNING I'LL PICK UP THE MONEY I'VE HIDDEN AND LAY LOW UNTIL THINGS START BREAKING MY WAY AGAIN!

Next morning, as soon as the bank opens—

I'VE GOT A QUARTER OF A MILLION IN HARD CASH IN THIS SAFE DEPOSIT BOX! WITH THAT KIND OF DOUGH, IT WON'T TAKE ME LONG TO GET BACK ON TOP!

GREAT GLORY! IT CAN'T BE!

IT WAS A LITTLE CRAMPED AND STUFFY IN HERE!

BUT I FIGURED THAT YOU'D SHOW UP BRIGHT AND EARLY! YOU SEE, I NEEDED MORE OF YOUR GOOD LUCK PIECES--- TO BUY A FRIEND OF MINE A PAIR OF ROLLER SKATES!

GUHHH!

HOW'D YOU FIND ME? THE SAFE DEPOSIT BOX WASN'T REGISTERED IN MY NAME...

YOU CONFIDED IN SLICK NICK! HE STARTED SINGING THE STOOL PIGEON'S SONG LAST NIGHT! TOO BAD, SILVER DOLLAR, BUT WHEN A MAN'S WASHED UP EVEN HIS BEST FRIENDS TELL ON HIM!

And so, Silver Dollar's career of crime brought him again to a familiar destination—

I SEE YOU'RE BACK AGAIN! YOU DIDN'T TAKE MY ADVICE, AFTER ALL!

I WAS RIDING HIGH FOR A WHILE! I MADE DOUGH AS FAST AS THEY COULD PRINT IT!

SURE, BUT THAT KIND OF DOUGH GOES EVEN FASTER! WHAT DID THE PRISONER HAVE ON HIM WHEN THEY BROUGHT HIM IN, CLERK?

EVERYTHING HE OWNED IN THE WORLD, WARDEN! ONE SOLITARY, SILVER DOLLAR!

The DOLL MAN

She called herself THE HUNTRESS— and the game she hunted was MAN! Until one day THE HUNTRESS decided to trap the DOLL MAN, and that was the beginning of a grim and merciless hunt to the death!

Swift as a flash of light, an arrow strikes with deadly accuracy----

BRAVO, DIANE! ANOTHER BULL'S-EYE!

OF COURSE! I NEVER MISS!

THAT'S WHY I GAVE UP HUNTING! I ALWAYS MADE THE KILL! EVEN WHEN I HANDICAPPED MYSELF BY GIVING UP GUNS IN FAVOR OF THE BOW AND ARROW!

YOU'RE A REMARKABLE WOMAN, DIANE! IN MANY WAYS!

JUST THINK! IN ANOTHER WEEK WE'LL BE MARRIED!

I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THAT!

I'M NOT THE MARRYING TYPE, DIANE! I ADMIRE YOU VERY MUCH, BUT I DON'T THINK I'D WANT YOU FOR MY WIFE!

YOU'RE JOKING!

I NEVER JEST ABOUT AFFAIRS OF THE HEART! IT'S OVER, DIANE, AND WE MIGHT AS WELL FACE IT! I DON'T LOVE YOU ANY MORE!

THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE?

AS A MATTER OF FACT, THERE IS! BUT THAT'S NO CONCERN OF YOURS ANY LONGER! IT'S BEEN NICE KNOWING YOU, DIANE!

YOU--- YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME LIKE THIS!

I WON'T LET YOU LEAVE ME!

I'VE ALWAYS DISLIKED DRAMATICS! TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME!

YOU HEARD ME, DIANE!

-OOOHH!

HE STRUCK ME! NO MAN EVER DID THAT BEFORE! HE'LL REGRET IT---

I'VE KILLED ANIMALS THAT DID ME NO HARM! WHY NOT CARRY THE HUNT TO ITS LOGICAL CONCLUSION --- AND DESTROY MAN?

Next morning, the managing editor's office of the Daily Bulletin....

WHAT'S THE IDEA OF BARGING INTO MY OFFICE LIKE THIS?

I WANT TO TALK TO YOU, BARROWS! AND IT'S NOT ABOUT BUSINESS!

MY NAME'S DARRELL DANE! I'M MARTHA ROBERTS' FIANCE, AND I DON'T LIKE THE ATTENTION YOU'VE BEEN PAYING HER LATELY!

NOTED? AND WHAT DO YOU THINK I'M GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

I KNOW YOUR REPUTATION WITH WOMEN, BARROWS! I'M WARNING YOU!

AN ARROW! IT--IT CAN'T MEAN...

IT'S HER! NO!

WHAT TH---

THUNK!

AGH!

By an instant effort of will, Darrel Dare compresses the molecules of his body to become the dynamic DOLL MAN!

THOSE WEREN'T JUST STRAY ARROWS!

THEY WERE AIMED WITH MUCH TOO DEADLY EFFECT!

BARROWS IS DEAD! NO QUARRY ESCAPES THE HUNTRESS

I HOPE THESE TELEPHONE WIRES GIVE ME THE IMPETUS I NEED!

TWANG!

WHEW! NOW I KNOW WHAT IT MUST BE LIKE TO BE SHOT OUT OF A CANNON!

THERE GOES THE KILLER! SHE'S IN AN AWFUL HURRY!

WELL, SO AM I!

SHE'S GOT A HEAD START! WHAT I NEED IS A SHORT CUT---

AND THIS IS THE NEAREST ONE!

KELLO THERE, BEAUTIFUL!

THE DOLL MAN!

THIS WILL HOLD YOU, DOLL MAN! AND SO FARE-WELL --- FROM THE HUNTRESS!

SHE SHOT AN ARROW INTO THE AIR --- AND IT LANDED, I DO KNOW WHERE!

THE HUNTRESS IS GONE! THAT BLASTED ARROW PINNED ME DOWN LONG ENOUGH FOR HER TO ESCAPE!

LATER--

YOU ASKED TO SEE ME, MARTHA! SAID IT WAS URGENT!

GEORGE BARROWS, THE MANAGING EDITOR OF THE NEWSPAPER I WORK FOR, WAS MURDERED TODAY! SEVERAL WITNESSES GAVE A DESCRIPTION OF THE LAST MAN TO ENTER HIS OFFICE!

THAT DESCRIPTION FITS YOU PERFECTLY, DARREL!

YOU THINK I KILLED HIM?

NO, I DON'T! BUT IT'S NO SECRET THAT GEORGE BARROWS WAS PAYING ATTENTION TO ME! WHEN THE POLICE FIND THAT OUT, IT MAY NOT LOOK SO WELL FOR YOU!

I MET THE REAL KILLER--- AND SHE ESCAPED! BUT I'VE A PLAN FOR MEETING HER AGAIN!

I HOPE IT WORKS--- BEFORE THE POLICE FIND OUT ABOUT "DU"!

BUT THAT'S EXACTLY MY PLAN! I'M GOING TO LET THE POLICE FIND OUT ABOUT ME!

Daily Herald EXTRA

FINAL

DARREL DANE ARRESTED

MURDER SUSPECT SURRENDERS TO POLICE!

And soon---

THIS DANE FELLOW CLAIMS HE SAW THE REAL MURDERESS! HE SAYS THAT HE CAN IDENTIFY HER FOR THE POLICE---

I DON'T REMEMBER SEEING ANYONE, EXCEPT THE DOLL MAN! BUT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN ANOTHER PERSON PRESENT! IF SO, HE'S A DANGER TO ME!

SOONER OR LATER, DARREL DANE MIGHT BETRAY MY SECRET! BUT HE WON'T TALK, IF HE RECEIVES A VISIT FROM THE HUNTRESS!

YOUR STORY CHECKS WITH THE FACTS AS FAR AS WE KNOW THEM, MR. DANE! THERE'S NO REASON TO KEEP YOU HERE ANY LONGER!

I'LL BE AVAILABLE, IN CASE YOU SHOULD EVER NEED ME AS A WITNESS!

HERE HE COMES! THE QUARRY I SEEK!

OOOHH!

STRAIGHT TO THE HEART! ONCE AGAIN, THE HUNTRESS HAS MADE HER KILL!

LUCKY I WORE THIS BULLETPROOF VEST! IT'S PROTECTION AGAINST ARROWS, TOO!

NO ONE'S NOTICED MY LITTLE ACCIDENT YET! EVEN THE HUNTRESS HAS LOST INTEREST IN HER POOR VICTIM! IT'S SAFE TO CHANGE TO THE DOLL MAN!

Seconds later...

THE HUNTRESS STRUCK MORE QUICKLY THAN I THOUGHT! NOW I'M STRIKING BACK!

THE DOLL MAN!

I ADMIT I GOT HERE PRETTY QUICKLY...

--- BUT ONE HAS TO MOVE QUICKLY WITH YOU!

I'LL FEEL A LOT SAFER WITH THIS OUT OF THE WAY!

OHHH!

I DON'T NEED MY BOW TO PUT AN ARROW INTO YOU!

I WOULDN'T SAY THAT!

IT CERTAINLY IMPROVES YOUR AIM!

OH! MY WRIST!

YOU'RE UNARMED, HUNTRESS! IT SEEMS THAT THIS IS THE END OF THE TRAIL!

SO IT DOES SEEM, DOLL MAN!

BUT APPEARANCES ARE DECEIVING!

SHE JUMPED!

SHE TOOK A LONG CHANCE, BUT IT WORKED! THE HUNTRESS IS ALMOST AS GOOD AT ESCAPING FROM A TRAPS AS SHE IS AT SETTING THEM!

But an unexpected shock still awaits the HUNTRESS----

DARREL DANE'S LIFE SAVED BY THE DOLL MAN! BUT THAT CAN'T BE! I SHOT THE ARROW STRAIGHT INTO HIS HEART---

FRACTA

YET PICTURES DON'T LIE! THERE'S DARREL DANE WITH HIS FIANCEE! HMM! THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA!

DARREL DANE SAVED BY THE DOLL MAN

IT'S ALWAYS DANGEROUS TO HUNT AN ANIMAL, ONCE HE IS AROUSED! DARREL DANE WILL BE ON GUARD AGAINST A FUTURE ATTACK! THIS TIME I MUST MAKE HIM COME WILLINGLY INTO THE TRAP I SET!

That night, outside Martha Roberts' apartment...

THE LINE ON THIS ARROW IS STRONG ENOUGH TO HOLD MY WEIGHT?

THERE SHE IS! WHAT LOVELY BAIT SHE WILL MAKE FOR THE TRAP!

A FEW DEEP BREATHS OF CHLOROFORM, AND SHE WILL MAKE NO FURTHER TROUBLE!

Next day...

MARTHA'S GONE! I FOUND THIS NOTE!

HMM! IT'S FROM THE HUNTRESS!

If you call the police, Martha dies! Come alone to 44 Sawson Street. It is Daniel Dare I want, not the girl.

The Huntress

SHE DOESN'T INTEND TO FREE MARTHA, WHATEVER HAPPENS!

OF COURSE NOT! SHE WANTS TO RID HERSELF OF ANYONE WHO MIGHT IDENTIFY HER LATER! BUT SHE'S FORGOTTEN ABOUT--THE DOLL MAN!

Later, The Doll Man visits the house at 44 Sawson street--

AN INTERESTING DEVICE! ANYONE OPENING THE DOOR WOULD RELEASE THE WEIGHT! HE'D BE KILLED INSTANTLY!

I'LL JUST SEE HOW IT WORKS!

CRASH

THE TRAP IS SPRUNG! THEN DAME MUST BE— NO! IT'S YOU!

I THOUGHT YOU'D COME OUT OF HIDING WHEN YOU HEARD THAT NOISE!

MY BOW! I'LL SPLIT HER WITH AN ARROW!

TOO LATE TO STOP HER!

MY QUIVER! IT'S EMPTY!

THAT'S THE BEST NEWS I'VE HEARD YET!

PLONG!

END OF THE HUNT, YOU'RE CAUGHT IN YOUR OWN WEAPON, HUNTRESS!

I SEE THAT THE HUNTRESS WAS ENJOYING A LITTLE SADISTIC SPORT— WITH YOU AS THE TARGET!

IT WAS HORRIBLE! BUT I'M GLAD SHE DID— FOR IF SHE HADN'T, SHE MIGHT HAVE HAD ONE LAST ARROW TO KILL YOU WITH!

Next day...

THE POLICE CLAIM THE HUNTRESS' MIND WAS UNHINGED WHEN SHE WAS REJECTED BY HER FIANCE! THAT'S WHY SHE STARTED TO USE HER HUNTING SKILL TO MURDER—

LET THAT BE A LESSON TO YOU! IF YOU EVER JILT ME, I MAY GO ON THE WARPATH, MYSELF!

EXTRA

HUNTRESS CAPTURED!

Torchy

---AND I KNOW THAT YOU ALL ARE INTERESTED IN SEEING JUSTICE DONE!

GOSH! A NOTICE TO SERVE ON A JURY!

IMAGINE ME DECIDING THE FATE OF A MAN — OR MAYBE SEVERAL MEN! I MUST LOOK VERY JUDICIAL FOR THE OCCASION!

Meanwhile, in a gang hideout—

WE GOTTA DO SOMETHING TO SAVE THE BOSS FROM THIS RAP!

WE CERTAINLY GOTTA!

BUT WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO? WE'VE ALREADY KNOCKED OFF TWO D.A.'S AND ALL THEY DID WAS APPOINT A THIRD D.A.! SUCH LACK OF CONSIDERATION!

YEAH! IF WE KNOCK OFF THE THIRD D.A. IT'LL GET MONOTONOUS!

THERE'S ONLY ONE OTHER WAY! WE GOTTA PUT PRESSURE ON THE JURY AND MAKE SURE THE BOSS IS ACQUITTED!

BUT YOU CAN'T GET AT THE JURY! THEY DON'T LET ANYBODY NEAR THOSE GUYS!

MY MUDDER ALWAYS SAID, WHERE THERE'S A WILL THERE'S A WAY! I KNOW HOW WE'LL DO IT! LISTEN!

WE'RE ALL EARS, LEFTY!

Later—in court—

AND MADAME AND GENTLEMEN, I WILL PROVE TO YOU THAT THE ELECTRIC CHAIR IS TOO GOOD FOR THIS FIEND WHO IS KNOWN TO THE UNDERWORLD AS KILLER KRUG!

HE REALLY DOESN'T LOOK TOO FIENDISH, BUT I GUESS THE D.A. MUST KNOW WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT!

AH—YOU MAY WELL WIDEN YOUR EYES AND STRAIN FORWARD IN RAPT ATTENTION, YOUR HONOR AND MEMBERS OF THE JURY, FOR THIS MONSTER HAS MURDERED NO LESS THAN THIRTY PEOPLE!

LUNCH TIME! LET'S EAT!

BUT YOUR HONOR, I WAS JUST GOING TO TELL YOU HOW KILLER KRUG KILLED EACH OF HIS VICTIMS!

WHAT? AND SPOIL MY APPETITE FOR LUNCH? ARE YOU MAD?

HIS HONOR IS SO RIGHT! ONE SHOULDN'T LISTEN TO UPSETTING STORIES BEFORE MEALS!

WE SEE EYE TO EYE ON THAT, MY DEAR! LET'S GRAB A HERRING AND TALK ABOUT IT SOME MORE!

OH, JUDGE, I'M A SIMPLE GIRL! ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO HAVE LUNCH WITH ME?

NIX, YOUR HONOR! THERE'S A LAW AGAINST ANYONE MINGLING WITH JURY MEMBERS WHILE THEY'RE ON A CASE!

DRAT! REMIND ME TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT LAW SOMETIME!

THE MEMBERS OF THE JURY WILL FOLLOW ME TO A SUITABLE PLACE, WHERE WE WILL PARTAKE OF FOOD TOGETHER!

SOME LAWS ARE SO SOUND!

YEP! CAN YOU BEAT THAT JUDGE TRYING TO BULLY HER INTO A DATE! ANYBODY CAN SEE SHE'S DYING TO SIT WITH ME AT LUNCH!

In the restaurant kitchen—

BUT, LEFTY, HOW DOES THAT STUFF WORK?

MAGICIAN MIKE SAYS ALL I GOTTA DO IS DROP IT IN THE FOOD! THEN, WHOEVER EATS THE FOOD BECOMES SUSCEPTIBLE TO SUGGESTION!

LEFTY, YOU KNOW I'M NO GOOD WITH BIG WORDS!

TSK! TSK! CALL THEM WORDS BIG? IT MEANS THAT WHEN THE JURORS EAT THE STUFF THEY'LL DO WHATEVER I TELL THEM TO DO!

I GET IT, LEFTY! YOU'RE GONNA TELL 'EM TO LET THE BOSS BEAT THE RAP!

YOU'RE A'BOY, DUKE! YOU CATCH ON!

...ERE THEY ...E! LUCKY I ...EMBERED ...AT THE JURIES ...WAYS EAT IN ...IS DIVE!

LEFTY, I MUST BE SEEIN' THINGS! THAT DOLL DON'T LOOK [redacted] NO JUROR I ... SAW ON THE JURIES THAT SENT ME TO THE PEN!

IT'D BE A PLEASURE TO BE FOUND GUILTY BY A DISH LIKE THAT!

SUCH HAIR— SUCH EYES— SUCH—

PULL YOURSELVES TOGETHER, MEN! THIS IS NO TIME FOR ROMANCE! BESIDES, HERE COMES THE WAITER!

NEVER MIND WHAT THEY ORDERED, STUPID! GIVE 'EM THIS!

Y-YES, SIR! DON'T SHOOT!

ONE PEEP AND I'LL PLUG YOU FROM HERE!

HE'S GIVING IT TO 'EM, ALL RIGHT, LEFTY!

NOW WATCH 'EM BECOME SUSCEPTIBLE TO SUGGESTION —LIKE MAGIC— CAN MIKE SAY THEY WOULD!

AH— DELICIOUS!

YOU CERTAINLY ARE!

NOBODY'S EATING BUT THE BABE!

THAT MEANS I WON'T BE ABLE TO DO A THING WITH 'EM! WE'LL HAVE TO GET ANOTHER IDEA TO SAVE THE BOSS!

HERE'S OUR CHANCE! SHE'S GOING TO POWDER HER NOSE!

IT COMES TO ME IN A FLASH! THE DOLL'S EATING, SO SHE'LL BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO SUGGESTION LIKE YOU SAID! SO WE GIVE HER A ROD AND TELL HER TO SLIP IT TO THE BOSS!

AND THE BOSS BUSTS OUT OF THAT COURT-ROOM! DUKE, YOU'RE A GENIUS!

COME IN HERE, SISTER!

OH, CERTAINLY!

WHEN YOU GET INTO THAT COURT-ROOM, FIND A WAY TO GET THIS TO KILLER KRUG!

IT'LL BE A PLEASURE!

THAT STUFF MAGICIAN MIKE GAVE YOU IS TERRIFIC! I'LL BET SHE'D HAVE MARRIED ME IF I'D ASKED HER!

Back in the courtroom,—

SOMEBODY ASKED ME TO GIVE YOU THIS!

HUH?

ORDER IN THE COURT!

I KNEW SHE COULDN'T RESIST MY CHARMS! I'LL TAKE HER WITH ME!

ATTABOY, JUDGE! KEEP EVERYBODY NICE AND QUIET WHILE I GET OUT OF HERE WITH MY HONEY!

THAT'S UN-CONSTITU-TIONAL!

EEEEK! HELP!

HELP! LET ME DOWN!

WHAT ARE YOU YELLIN' ABOUT? YOU'RE NUTS? ABOUT ME! THAT'S WHY YOU SLIPPED ME THE ROD! REMEMBER?

OH, THAT'S RIGHT! I MUST HAVE FORGOTTEN!

IRRESISTIBLE! THAT'S ME!

HERE WE ARE, AT THE HIDEOUT!

BOSS, YOU MADE IT!

NATURALLY! THANKS TO THIS WONDERFUL DOLL, WHO WAS READY TO MAKE SUCH SACRIFICES FOR ME!

WHAT'LL WE DO WITH HER NOW THAT SHE'S SERVED HER PURPOSE, BOSS?

SHE'S GOING TO MARRY ME, OF COURSE! WHAT ELSE?

OF COURSE!

YOU'RE WRONG, KILLER KRUG! THAT'S WHERE I DON'T TAKE ORDERS FROM YOU! SHE'S GOING TO MARRY ME! I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT HER!

WHAT? YOU DIDN'T TELL ME!

OH, DIDN'T I? WELL, I'VE JUST TOLD YOU!

IT'S REVOLUTION, THAT'S WHAT IT IS! I'M FOR THE BOSS!

SPUD'S RIGHT! I'M FOR SPUD!

DEAR, OH, DEAR! I WISH SOMEBODY'D MAKE UP MY MIND FOR ME! GOLLY! SOMEONE'S GOT TO ANSWER THE PHONE!

RING!

HELLO!

HELLO! THIS IS MAGICIAN MIKE! I FORGOT TO TELL YOU THAT STUFF I GAVE YOU WEARS OFF IN HALF-AN-HOUR! HEY, LEFTY, I THINK YOUR VOICE IS CHANGING!

STUFF HE GAVE WEARS OFF— AND I'VE BEEN FEELING SO STRANGE! GOODNESS! I'LL BET I WAS DOPED! I REMEMBER EVERYTHING NOW! I'D BETTER CALL THE JUDGE!

NONE OF THEM IS DEAD! THEY'LL ALL LIVE!

FINE! FINE! AND THIS LITTLE GIRL DID IT ALL SINGLE-HANDED! NOW WE'VE GOT THE WHOLE GANG, INSTEAD OF JUST KILLER KRUG!

THIS TIME I'VE GOT AN IDEA THAT'LL MAKE THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE GRIND A LITTLE FASTER! NO DISTRACTIONS FOR THE JURY! YOU'LL SIT WITH ME, LITTLE GIRL!

OH! JUST LIKE A JUDGE!

GET ON WITH THE PROSECUTION, MISTER DISTRICT-ATTORNEY!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT! THE JURORS WERE SO ALIVE, SO ATTENTIVE! NOW THEY'VE LOST ALL INTEREST! THEY WON'T STAY AWAKE! WHY?

DOLL MAN

MUTINY

THE Ninabelle slid along through silver seas, a bit in her teeth, her fantail swash occasionally. She was a sweet yacht, ketch rigged, and she stood to the breeze like a schooner.

Capt. Hartley Simms, her owner and skipper, stood at the wheel conversing in low tones with Dr. Roberts, renowned scientist, who had chartered the boat.

"It makes one's blood fairly sing, the thought of finding treasure, eh, sir!"

Dr. Roberts said, "Of course, there is no definite assurance that any treasure exists. I have only these maps, which seem authentic. History backs up the contention that the Yakuts left treasure buried on their islands . . . We should soon know."

Capt. Hartley Simms nodded and shoved his cap back to catch the evening breeze.

"Treasure or not," he said, "it's the fun of such a cruise that intrigues me."

"I have had some thought about the crew, Captain," said Dr. Roberts. "The mention of treasure on shipboard sometimes precipitates trouble, I'm told."

Simms laughed. "Oh, yes, in the old days, I suppose. But hardly in the 20th century, Doctor. I can vouch for my crew."

"Good." Dr. Roberts lit a cigar. Then his daughter, Martha, came out on deck to stand viewing the big moon with its lace of scudding cloud.

"It's beautiful," she said. "Simply gorgeous. I love sailing."

Dr. Roberts chuckled. "Well, we have a long voyage before us, Martha. Where's Darrel?"

Martha snorted. "Oh, he's got his nose buried in a book. Says he's working on some theory, or something. I think he's mean!"

But Dr. Roberts knew that Martha thought nothing of the sort. And he knew that Darrel Dane was actually working on something big. He was trying to perfect an electronic detector that not only showed the presence of ore at great depths in the ground, or underwater, but told you exactly what that ore was. If successful, his device would revolutionize the business of locating ores and minerals.

Darrel came out on deck after a while and grinned impishly at Martha, who turned up her nose.

"Listen, little one," said Darrel. "She's finished. Completed. My detector is done!"

Dr. Roberts leaned nearer. "Am I hearing right, Darrel?"

"Yes sir. I found the bug just a moment ago. She works perfectly. So lead me to these islands with buried loot!"

"Sshh!" said Dr. Roberts. He glanced over his shoulder.

Darrel said, "What's the—"

"Just a precaution," filled in Dr. Roberts. "I may be all wrong, but why take any chances, eh!"

"Oh, I get it." Darrel nodded.

The Algo Islands are not marked on regulation maps; they are too small for one thing, and for another they are hundreds of miles off the ship lanes. They were once peopled by a fierce and warlike race called the Yakuts. Who these people were, nobody knows. They vanished centuries ago, but they left wealth in the form of gold and precious gems. This has been proved by the two or three expeditions that have found treasure on the islands.

Dr. Roberts came into possession of a map purporting to show the location of an enormous cache of gold and jewels. If they found it . . .

"If she's there we'll find her," said Darrel in a lower voice.

We will pass up an account of the next three weeks, other than that they landed on the correct island, found the treasure, and loaded it—more than a ton—on board the Ninabelle. Darrel Dane's detector proved its worth from the start, and but for it they would have had no success.

They had set up a comfortable camp on shore, where Doctor and Martha Roberts, Captain Simms, Darrel, and two members of the crew held forth. The others stayed on board the yacht. Each member of the crew had been promised a large share of the treasure.

It was a great surprise then when, one morning, they saw the yacht standing out toward the open sea. Capt. Simms yelled and shouted, as did the others. Loud laughter drifted back to them.

The crew was stranding them on the island!

Darrel Dane began peeling off his jacket, rolling up his pants legs. Said he, "I'll try to

get 'em when they go through the channel. It'll be slow going for 'em because of the tide."

"What are you going to do, tackle them barehanded!" demanded Dr. Roberts. "You can't, boy!"

"No," exclaimed Martha. "You mustn't, Darrel."

Capt. Simms said, "They're heavily armed—or will be when they break open the armory. I wouldn't risk it, Mr. Dane."

"Wait here, everybody," said Darrel, and he was off, loping over the island toward a fairly high point that jutted above the channel.

He made it there before the Nimbelle did. He crouched down and waited. The boat was making slow progress. Darrel saw that it would pass within a few feet of where he crouched. A large bush hung out over the water. He had an idea.

With an enormous effort of will he concentrated his body molecules until his figure was less than a foot tall. Now he was the invincible Doll Man, the secret self known by only two people in the world—Dr. Roberts and Martha.

The Doll Man climbed high into the bush and found a slender branch that would swing low with his puny weight. When the ship slid under him, he gave the deck a glance to see that no one spotted him, then he let go and dropped.

The Doll Man bounded into a companionway and down into the hold. Each step of the companion was like dropping seven feet. With some effort, he opened the sea valve, allowing a geyser of water to spurt into the hold. It would soon be discovered, but it would delay matters, all he wanted.

The Doll Man knew there were fifteen men on board—far too many for one man to tackle. It must be done by strategy, rescuing the ship from mutineers. The first step was his makeshift laboratory near the stern.

He donned a gas mask and picked up a cylinder of nauseous fumigation acid. This he placed in the hold amidships and lighted it. A cloud of thick, green smoke began billowing upward. He chuckled when he thought of what would happen when it reached the deck.

Soon he heard yells and excited cries. The stuff was taking hold!

The Doll Man waited in a dark corner. Someone tried to come down into the hold but was forced up by the terrible fumes.

It was time for the next move now. The Doll Man worked his way carefully up to a position where he could see the deck. The crew was huddled forward to catch what breeze there was. They were coughing and spluttering.

The Doll Man hurled a tiny vial of liquid to the deck. It broke and a huge sheet of green, cold fire flared up. It was intensely brilliant. He jumped into the middle of it and began waving his arms and gesturing. He heard gasps of utter astonishment and fear.

"Bejabbers, an' it's one o' th' Little People!" cried Mike Grady, the big Irish engineer. "I don't like this, bhoys."

"Listen!" shouted the Doll Man in his elfin voice. "Turn back at once. You cannot get away with this. If you don't turn back, I'll send fire to consume you all!"

The big Irishman leaped out in front of the others. "I say, do like he tells us!" he cried. "I know the power of the Little People, I do! Turn back, bhoys!"

The helmsman twisted the wheel, the ship heeled, and the Doll Man knew they were heading back toward the island, although he couldn't see over the rail.

"One last word," he yelled, just before the fire went out, "you'll be forgiven for this act if you turn over the man who framed it. I have spoken!"

The Doll Man leaped into a cranny and was quickly down in the hold. He became his normal size, and when the boat passed through the channel, leaped to land.

He scarcely beat the Nimbelle into the cove. And it was a sheepish crew that faced Capt. Simms. A crewman was shoved ahead by Mike Grady.

"Here be th' Cap'n sir. It's a spalpeen he is! I was against this mutiny, that I was, sir."

Capt. Simms looked at the little brown chap who had caused the trouble. "Your name is Larkey, is it not?"

Larkey nodded, keeping his eyes averted.

Capt. Simms turned to Dr. Roberts and Darrel Dane. "What do you gentlemen suggest that I do with Larkey?"

Dr. Roberts cleared his throat but said nothing.

"I'd suggest," said Darrel, "that if he gives his parole we turn him loose. I believe everything will go all right from here on out."

The captain nodded. "As you say."

"How did you do it?" asked Martha later.

Darrel grinned. "A little magic and green fire, child," he told her. "And then don't forget that I'm a clever mortal, on top of that!"

Martha snorted.

The DOLL MAN

Every great man has volumes written about his life! These books are called biographies, and it was inevitable that Darrel Dane, THE DOLL MAN, mightiest mite of crime-busting—should have his deeds recorded!

But neither Darrel nor his biographer counted upon THE DERBY, master mind of crime, who was determined to write the final chapter to the history of The DOLL MAN!

THESE FIRST EDITIONS ARE WORTH A FORTUNE!

HELP! POLICE!

I WARNED YOU NOT TO MAKE ANY NOISE!

DON'T BE SO QUICK ON THE TRIGGER!

WHA---? THE DOLL MAN!

BANG!

YOU MIGHT END UP IN THE HOT SEAT, MR. DERBY!

SPLAT!

UHHHH!

DIDN'T I JUST TAKE YOUR BREATH AWAY?

OOF!

I'M REALLY DOING YOU A FAVOR! IT'S EASIER TO CATCH YOUR BREATH WHEN YOU'RE UNCONSCIOUS!

GLUHGG!

THAT WAS CLOSE!

BANG!

BUT THIS END OF YOUR GUN WORKS BETTER!

WHAM!

HEY!

THIS DERBY'S NEVER FAILED ME YET!

I ALMOST HATE TO CRUSH IT, EXCEPT THAT I KNOW YOU'RE UNDERNEATH!

OHH!

TSK! TSK! TOO BAD I CAN'T STAY LONGER!

TWEET!

TWEET!

I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO MAKE SURE THE DOLL MAN NEVER BOTHERED US AGAIN!

BANG!

BANG!

BANG!

ARE YOU OKAY, DOLL MAN?

JUST A LITTLE BATTERED! I--UH--FELL FOR MR. DERBY'S HAT TRICK!

YOU SAVED ME A FORTUNE! THOSE CROOKS LEFT THEIR LOOT! I'D HAVE BEEN RUINED IF YOU HADN'T SHOWED UP WHEN YOU DID!

WELL, I'M GLAD I ACCOMPLISHED SOMETHING!

And this wholly familiar scene leads, therefore, to a most familiar headline...

DOLL MAN FOILS RARE BOOK ROBBERY!

And in the home of a certain Wesley Kant...

ONE MORE TRIUMPH FOR THE DOLL MAN! IT WILL MAKE AN INTERESTING PARAGRAPH IN THE BIOGRAPHY OF HIS LIFE I'M WRITING!

THE HISTORY OF THE DOLL MAN, COMPLETE WITH ALL HIS ADVENTURES AND EVERYTHING I'VE BEEN ABLE TO LEARN ABOUT HIS PERSONALITY AND HIS METHODS!

WHAT A BOOK THIS WILL BE! IT'S WORTH THE YEARS OF EFFORT I'VE DEVOTED TO IT! THIS WILL BE MY MASTERPIECE!

Later, at a book publisher's office--

YOU'VE WRITTEN A GREAT BOOK... DRAMA, EXCITEMENT, REALISM - IT HAS EVERYTHING! IN FACT, THERE'S ONLY ONE DETAIL YOU'VE OVERLOOKED!

WHAT'S THAT?

YOU'VE FAILED TO PROVIDE AN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION EVERY READER WILL ASK! WHAT IS THE REAL IDENTITY OF THE DOLL MAN?

WE'LL PUBLISH IT, OF COURSE! BUT IF YOU COULD FIND THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION, WE'D HAVE THE SENSATION OF THE YEAR!

I KNOW! I'VE OFTEN WONDERED ABOUT IT, MYSELF!

That night...

STRANGE, THAT AFTER ALL MY RESEARCH I STILL HAVE NO IDEA WHO THE DOLL MAN REALLY IS!

I KNOW THAT HIS BEST FRIENDS ARE DARREL DANE, AND DARREL'S FIANCEE, MARTHA ROBERTS! AND HE'S HELPED MARTHA'S FATHER, DR. ROBERTS, THE SCIENTIST, MANY TIMES— BUT WHO IS THE DOLL MAN?

The next day, an advertisement appears in the "personals" column of the city's newspapers—

PERSONALS

The Doll Man's biographer requests any information that may shed light on the identity of The Doll Man. Write or call Wesley Hunt—

And in Mr. Derby's hideout—

DOLL MAN'S BIOGRAPHER, EH? THIS FELLOW MAY PROVE USEFUL!

THAT LITTLE GUY, THE DOLL MAN, HAS MESSED UP PLENTY OF JOBS FOR US! WE'LL NEVER GET ANYWHERE IN THIS TOWN UNTIL HE'S OUT OF THE WAY!

YEAH! BUT HOW DO WE GET RID OF HIM? PLENTY OF SMART GUYS HAVE TRIED— AND THEY'RE ALL ROTTING IN JAIL!

THE BEST WAY TO DEFEAT AN ENEMY IS TO LEARN ALL ABOUT HIM! THE DOLL MAN'S BIOGRAPHER WILL TEACH ME HIS WEAKNESSES! THEN I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE DOLL MAN!

And so the Doll Man's biographer finds an interested listener .....

IT'S WONDERFUL TO MEET ANOTHER STUDENT OF THE DOLL MAN'S CAREER! HE'S SUCH A FASCINATING CHARACTER! REMEMBER THE TIME HE CAPTURED THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK?

TELL ME ABOUT IT!

When Mr. Derby departs—

DO COME AGAIN! I'LL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO EXCHANGING MORE STORIES ABOUT THE DOLL MAN!

THE OLD FOOL DID ALL THE TALKING! HE TOLD ME PLENTY!

MARTHA ROBERTS IS THE ONE WEAKNESS OF THE DOLL MAN! SEVERAL CROOKS MADE GOOD THEIR ESCAPE BY USING HER AS A SHIELD! BUT I CAN'T COUNT ON HER BEING AROUND WHEN I NEED HER----

---UNLESS I SEND FOR HER! THAT'S WHAT I'LL DO! MARTHA ROBERTS WILL GET A SPECIAL INVITATION TO MY NEXT CRIME JOB! --- JUST IN CASE THE DOLL MAN SHOWS UP AGAIN!

The next day, in Martha Roberts' home ----

AN INVITATION TO THE SET WHERE THEY'RE FILMING CLEOPATRA'S NECKLACE! ISN'T THAT THE NEW MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR MOTION PICTURE?

YES! CECIL MILLER IS PRODUCING IT AND HE'S NOT SPARING THE EXPENSE!

I UNDERSTAND HE EVEN SENT TO CAIRO FOR AN ACTUAL NECKLACE OF CLEOPATRA'S! IT'S TO BE WORN BY THE STAR, CLAUDIA MADELINE! IT'S VALUED AT A MILLION DOLLARS!

WE NEWSPAPER GALS CERTAINLY RATE THE BEST!

DON'T GET SO CONCEITED! IT HAPPENS THAT I KNOW CECIL MILLER! I CAN GET IN TO SEE THE FILMING TOO --- AS YOUR ESCORT!

Cleopatra's barge returns on a modern movie set ....

LOOK SEDUCTIVE, CLAUDIA! REMEMBER, YOU'RE THE WORLD'S MOST ALLURING WOMAN!

CLEOPATRA NEVER LOOKED AS GOOD AS I DO THIS VERY MINUTE! AND YOU KNOW IT!

TEMPERAMENT! SHE'S NOT ONLY PLAYING CLEOPATRA, SHE'S ALREADY BETTER AT IT THAN CLEOPATRA WAS!

MOVE FAST, BOYS! THE GIRL WITH THE NECKLACE IS IN THAT BARGE!

WHAT'S THIS? I DIDN'T INVITE THESE VISITORS TO MY SET!

WHO SAYS WE NEED AN INVITATION?

THERE'S THE ROBERTS DAME! GRAB HER!

KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF HER!

UGHH!

A WISE GUY! THIS'LL TEACH YOU A LESSON!

BAM!

YOU BEAST! YOU MAY HAVE KILLED HIM!

TAKE IT EASY, SISTER, AND YOU WON'T GET HURT!

TOO BAD I'VE GOT TO INTERRUPT SUCH A SWELL PERFORMANCE! BUT I JUST WANT TO BORROW THIS NECKLACE!

YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH THIS!

DON'T PLACE ANY BETS ON IT, LADY! HA! HA!

Using his miraculous power to condense the molecules of his body, Darrel Dare becomes the DOLL MAN!

WHAT A WALLOP! THAT GUY NEARLY PUSHED MY HEAD OUT OF SHAPE!

I'M GLAD DARREL WASN'T KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS!

--- OR I'D HAVE MISSED ALL THE FUN!

DOLL MAN!

OWW!

I'M SO GLAD YOU RECOGNIZED ME! IT SAVES THE FORMALITY OF AN INTRODUCTION!

YIIII! I CAN'T SEE!

BESIDES, WE'VE ALREADY MET!

UHHH!

DON'T COME ANY CLOSER, DOLL MAN, OR MARTHA ROBERTS WILL GET A BULLET THROUGH HER HEAD! I'M NOT BLUFFING, EITHER!

WHY, YOU—!

SAVE THE INSULTS! WE'LL LET HER GO WHEN WE GET SAFELY OUTSIDE! IF ANYBODY FOLLOWS US THEY'LL FIND HER CORPSE!

YOU WIN THIS TIME, MR. DERBY! BUT I WON'T FORGET THIS!

Moments later—

DERBY MADE A CLEAN GETAWAY— WITH A MILLION-DOLLAR NECKLACE!

SCREEECH!

IT'S ALL MY FAULT!

DERBY'S MEN HEADED FOR MARTHA RIGHT AWAY! IT ALMOST SEEMS AS IF HE'D PLANNED TO USE HER AS A SHIELD— BUT HOW COULD HE HAVE KNOWN SHE GOT AN INVITATION?

INVITATION? BUT I DIDN'T SEND HER ONE! I THOUGHT DARREL DANE BROUGHT HER! HE MUST HAVE DONE IT!

9

Later...

IT-IT CAN'T BE! THE DESCRIPTION OF THE MAN WHO STOLE THE NECKLACE FITS THE MAN WHO CAME TO SEE ME HERE YESTERDAY!

Daily Herald

CROOKS STYMIE DOLL MAN ESCAPE WITH MILLION DOLLAR NECKLACE!

AND HE DID DEFEAT THE DOLL MAN THROUGH MARTHA ROBERTS! PERHAPS HE LEARNED THAT FROM SOMETHING I MENTIONED! BUT, NO! THE WHOLE IDEA IS TOO FANTASTIC!

KNOCK!— KNOCK!

OH! IT'S YOU!

I ACCEPTED YOUR INVITATION TO VISIT AGAIN! I WANT TO HEAR MORE ABOUT THE DOLL MAN!

I NOTICE THAT THE DOLL MAN MET WITH AN UNEXPECTED SETBACK YESTERDAY! HE WAS ON THE SCENE WHEN CROOKS ESCAPED WITH THE COUNTERFEIT CLEOPATRA'S NECKLACE----

COUNTER-FEIT?

YOU'RE CRAZY! LOUIE THE FENCE OFFERED THREE HUNDRED G'S IN COLD CASH FOR---?ULP?

A SLIP OF THE TONGUE! I COUNTED ON THAT---

YOU'RE A CROOK! AND YOU'VE BEEN USING ME TO HELP FIGHT THE DOLL MAN!

TOO BAD YOU FOUND OUT! NOW THAT YOU'VE SEEN THROUGH MY LITTLE PERFORMANCE---

WE'LL START PLAYING IN EARNEST!

OHHH!

Later---

I'VE BEEN THROUGH ALL YOUR NOTES! A LOT OF INTERESTING STUFF THERE! BUT I'D LIKE TO KNOW ONE THING THAT ISN'T MENTIONED --- WHO IS THE DOLL MAN!

YOU'LL NEVER FIND OUT!

OH, NO?

GO AHEAD --- SHOOT! I CAN'T TELL YOU, BECAUSE THAT'S ONE THING EVEN I DON'T KNOW!

MAYBE YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH! IT DOESN'T MATTER! BECAUSE WITH THE TIPS I GOT FROM YOUR BOOK, I CAN WRITE FINIS TO THE DOLL MAN'S CAREER-WITH YOUR HELP!

WHAT'S THAT? MR. DERBY WILL BE AT FRANK FORSYTHE'S HOME TONIGHT--- IN CASE THE DOLL MAN WANTS TO FIND HIM?

BUT WHO ARE YOU? HOW DID YOU KNOW I'M A FRIEND OF---HELLO! HELLO!

CLICK!

HE HUNG UP! IT'S A TRAP, NO DOUBT OF IT! BUT I'LL GO JUST THE SAME--- AS THE DOLL MAN!

IF I CAN BEAT THEM TO FORSYTHE'S HOUSE, MR. DERBY MAY GET CAUGHT IN HIS OWN TRAP!

Meanwhile---

HARVEY, DON'T YOU SMELL A PECULIAR ODOR? WHAT IS IT?

I-I DON'T KNOW, MR. FORSYTHE!

IT SEEMS TO BE COMING FROM THE HOT AIR REGIST--- OHHHH!

AHHHH!

SSS!

Moments later...

IT WORKED! THE GAS PIPED THROUGH THE HOT-AIR REGISTERS KNOCKED THEM OUT!

WHAT A HAUL THIS WILL BE!

THE DOLL MAN WILL BE HERE SOON! I KNEW YOU'D WANT TO BE AROUND TO RECORD THE FINAL CHAPTER OF HIS CAREER!

HE MAY SURPRISE YOU! HE'S CLEVERER THAN YOU THINK!

THE MAN'S RIGHT, DERBY--- SURPRISE! SURPRISE!

UHHHH! THE NETS! QUICK!

I'M TRAPPED!

YOU'RE NOT KIDDING!

SWISH!

THIS HAPPENED TO YOU ONCE BEFORE, DOLL MAN! I READ ALL ABOUT IT IN YOUR BIOGRAPHY! IT STRUCK ME AS A GOOD TRICK TO TRY AGAIN!

DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MAN WHO DID IT?

THAT'S ONE MISTAKE I'M NOT REPEATING! I'M GOING TO SHOOT YOU RIGHT NOW, DOLL MAN!

I MUSTN'T LET HIM DO IT! THIS IS ALL MY FAULT!

NO! YOU CAN'T KILL THE DOLL MAN!

BANG!

Gulp!*?!#!

YOU JUST SIGNED YOUR OWN DEATH WARRANT!

AGH!

BANG! BANG! BANG!

BANG!

GET HIM--- DOLL MAN---

THANKS! I WILL!

BANG!

BLAST IT! MY GUN IS EMPTY!

ISN'T THAT TOO BAD?

CLICK! CLICK!

BUT YOU WON'T NEED A GUN WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

HELP!

IN FACT, YOUR GUN JUST EARNED YOU A FREE SEAT IN THE STATE ELECTRIC CHAIR!

THIS WILL KEEP YOU QUIET UNTIL THE POLICE ARRIVE!

EEOWW!

TAKE IT EASY, OLD TIMER! HELP WILL BE HERE SOON—

I'M AFRAID... IT WILL ARRIVE TOO LATE! BUT I'M GLAD—I FINALLY SAW... YOU... IN ACTION!

YOU—WERE GREAT, DOLL MAN! WOULD... YOU—MIND TELLING... AN OLD ADMIRER—ONE SECRET? WHAT IS... YOUR REAL IDENTITY!

I'VE NEVER TOLD ANYONE BUT DR. ROBERTS AND MARTHA...

—BUT YOU'RE ENTITLED TO KNOW! I'M REALLY DARREL DANE!

WELL—I'LL—BE DOGGONED—

HE'S DEAD! POOR MAN... I GUESS MY SECRET IS SAFE, AFTER ALL! NOW TO CALL THE POLICE FOR MR. PERBY AND HIS PALS!

Later...

THERE IT IS, DARREL! THE DOLL MAN'S BIOGRAPHY! IT'S THE NATION'S BEST SELLER!

BUT THERE'S ONE QUESTION IT DOES NOT ANSWER!

I'M GLAD ITS AUTHOR KNEW THE ANSWER BEFORE HE DIED, THOUGH! SOMEHOW, I FEEL I SHOULDN'T HAVE KEPT ANY SECRETS FROM HIM!

ADVENTURES OF

"POPSICLE PETE"

IN

"SHOW TIME"













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